

61ST SEASON.

593D CONCERT.

Handel and Haydn Society.

EASTER ORATORIO.

BOSTON

EASTER SUNDAY,

MUSIC HALL,

APRIL 16, 1876.



FOR THE FIRST TIME, HANDEL'S HEROIC ORATORIO,

“JOSHUA”

WITH THE FOLLOWING MAGNIFICENT ARRAY OF ARTISTS:

Mme. FENNY VAN ZANDT,

The distinguished Prima Donna of the Kellogg Opera Company.

Miss ADELAIDE PHILLIPPS,

The favorite Contralto, her first appearance here this season.

Miss SARAH C. FISHER, Soprano,

Mr. JOSEPH MAAS,

Tenor of the Kellogg Opera Company.

Mr. M. W. WHITNEY,

Basso, his first appearance here in Oratorio this season.

GRAND CHORUS, ORCHESTRA AND ORGAN.

CARL ZERRAHN, Conductor.

B. J. LANG, Organist.

Secured Seats, \$1.00 and \$1 50.

Performance to begin at 7 o'clock.

JOSHUA.

CHARACTERS REPRESENTED.

JOSHUA, *Leader of the Israelites.*
 CALEB, *a Ruler or Captain of the Tribe of Judah.*
 OTHNIEL, *a youthful warrior, betrothed to Achsah.*

ACHSAH, *Daughter of Caleb.*
 ANGEL.
 CHORUS.

ARGUMENT.

PART I.—The Children of Israel celebrate their miraculous passage over the river Jordan, and their entrance into the land of Canaan, under the guidance of Joshua. Joshua receives from an angel his commission to go up against Jericho, and prepares the people for the attack. The mutual attachment of Othniel and Achsah, and the departure of Othniel to join in the war against Jericho.

PART II.—The destruction of the City of Jericho. The feast of the passover kept. Tidings brought of the defeat of Israel at Ai. Joshua rouses the people to renew the attack. Othniel revisits Achsah. Her father, Caleb, dismisses him to the war in defence of the Gibeonites, the allies of Israel. Joshua and his army rescue Gibeon from the five confederate kings of the Amorites. The miracle of the sun and moon being stayed in their course during the battle.

PART III.—The wars having terminated, the people celebrate the praises of Joshua. He allots to Caleb the portion of the land which had been promised him by Moses. The gratitude of Caleb and the members of his tribe. Caleb's promise to bestow his daughter Achsah on whoever shall subdue the City of Debir. The task undertaken by Othniel, for whose success the aid of the Almighty is invoked. Othniel's triumphant return from victory. Receives the reward of his valour. The happy condition of the people, and their grateful ascription of praise to the Almighty.

Part I.

INTRODUCTION.

CHORUS.

Ye sons of Israel, ev'ry tribe attend,
 Let grateful songs and hymns to heav'n ascend :
 In Gilgal, and on Jordan's banks proclaim
 One first, one great, one Lord Jehovah's name.

RECIT. — *Joshua.*

Behold, my friends, what vast rewards are giv'n
 To all the just, who place their faith in heav'n !
 Oh ! had your sires obey'd divine command,
 They too, like you, had reach'd the promis'd land ;
 But rebels to the laws th' Almighty gave,
 They, in the Desert met an early grave.

Caleb.

O Joshua, both to rule and bless ordain'd ;
 When Moses the eternal mansions gain'd,
 What boundless gratitude to heav'n we owe,
 Who did, in thee, a chief so wise bestow !
 Courage and conduct shine in thee complete,
 Justice and mercy fill thy judgment seat.

AIR.

O first in wisdom, first in pow'r,
 Jehovah, ev'ry blessing show'r
 Around thy sacred head !
 The neighb'ring realms with envy see
 The happiness and liberty
 O'er all thy people spread.

RECIT. — *Achsah.*

Matrons and virgins, with unwearied pray'r,
 Solicit heav'n for thee, their fav'rite care.
 The first lawgiver broke th' Egyptian chain ;
 And, by thy hallow'd aid, we Canaan gain.

AIR.

Oh ! who can tell, oh ! who can hear
 Of Egypt, and not shed a tear ?
 Or, who will not on Jordan smile,
 Releas'd from bondage on the Nile ?

RECIT. — *Joshua.*

Caleb, attend to all I now prescribe ;
 One righteous man select from ev'ry tribe,
 To bear twelve stones from the divided flood,
 Where the priests' feet, and holy cov'nant stood ;
 In Gilgal place them : hence twelve more provide,
 And fix them in the bosom of the tide :

These when our sons shall view with curious eye,
 Thus the historic columns shall reply :

SOLO AND CHORUS.

To long posterity we here record
 The wondrous passage, and the land restor'd :
 In wat'ry heaps affrighted Jordan stood,
 And backward to the fountain roll'd his flood.

RECIT. — ACCOMP. — *Joshua.*

So long the memory shall last,
 Of all the tender mercies past.

RECIT. — *Angel.*

Joshua, I come commission'd from on high,
 The captain of the host of God am I ;
 Loose from thy feet thy shoes, for all around
 The place whereon thou stand'st, is holy ground.

Joshua.

Low on the earth, Oh ! prostrate let me bend,
 And thy behests with reverence attend.

RECIT. — ACCOMP. — *Angel.*

Leader of Israel, 'tis the Lord's decree,
 That Jericho must fall, and fall by thee :
 The tyrant king, and all his heathen train,
 At their own idol-altars shall be slain :
 Th' embattel'd walls, and tow'rs, that reached the sky,
 Shall perish, and in dusty ruin lie ;
 Scatter'd in air, their ashes shall be tost,
 The place, the name, and all remembrance lost.

RECIT. — *Joshua.*

To give command, prerogative is thine :
 And humbly to obey, the duty's mine.

AIR.

Haste, Israel, haste, your glitt'ring arms prepare,
 With valour abounding,
 The city surrounding,
 Deal death and dreadful war.

CHORUS.

The Lord commands, and Joshua leads,
 Jericho falls, the tyrant bleeds.

RECIT. — ACCOMP. — *Othniel.*

In these blest scenes, where constant pleasure reigns,
 And herds and bleating flocks, adorn the plains :
 Where the soft season all its blessings sheds,
 Refreshing rivers, and enamell'd meads ;

Here, in the covert of some friendly shade,
Direct me, Love, to Achsah, blooming maid.

Achsah.

O Othniel, Othniel !

Othniel.

'Tis my name I hear !

Othniel, in melting accents, strikes my ear.

AIR. — Achsah.

O Othniel, Othniel ! valiant youth,
May heav'n reward thy love and truth !

RECIT. — Othniel.

'Tis Achsah's voice ; who, but that heav'nly fair,
Could breathe so tender and so sweet a pray'r ?

Achsah.

But see ! he comes — he heard, and knows his pow'r.

AIR. — Othniel.

Hail ! lovely virgin of this blissful bow'r ;
How sweet the music of thy tuneful tongue !

RECIT. — Achsah.

These praises to the feather'd choir belong.

AIR.

(Violin and Flute obligato.)

Hark ! 'tis the linnet and the thrush ;

In dulcet notes

They pour their throats,

And wake the morn on ev'ry bush :

RECIT. — Othniel.

O Achsah, form'd for ev'ry chaste delight,
T' inspire the virtuous thought and charm the sight ;
Thy presence gilds the variegated scene,
To the green olive adds a brighter green ;
White to the lily, blushes to the rose,
With deeper red the rich pomegranate glows ;
The fruits their flavour, flowers their odour prove,
And here we taste true liberty and love.

DUET.

Our limped streams with freedom flow,

And feel no icy chains ;

No moulded hail, no fleecy snow,

Pollute our fruitful plains :

The years one vernal circle move,

And still the same { like Othniel's love.
 { like Achsah's love.

RECIT. — Othniel.

The trumpet calls ; now Jericho shall know

What 'tis to have a lover for a foe.

The city conquer'd, I shall hope to find

Thy father Caleb, like his Achsah, kind.

CHORUS.

May all the host of heav'n attend him round,
And angels wait him back with conquest crown'd !

Part II.

RECIT. — Joshua.

'Tis well ; six times the Lord hath been obey'd ;
Low in the dust the town shall soon be laid.
Now the seventh sun the gilded domes adorns,
Sound the shrill trumpets, shout, and blow the horns.

MARCH.

SOLO AND CHORUS

Joshua.

Glory to God ! the strong cemented walls,
The tott'ring tow'rs, the pond'rous ruin falls :

The nations tremble at the dreadful sound,
Heav'n thunders, tempests roar, and groans the ground.

RECIT. — Caleb.

The walls are levell'd, pour the chosen bands,
With hostile gore imbrue your thirsty hands :
Set palaces and temples in a blaze,
Sap the foundations, and the bulwarks raze.
But, oh ! remember, in the bloody strife,
To spare the hospitable Rahab's life.

AIR.

See, the raging flames arise ;
Hear, the dismal groans and cries !
The fatal day of wrath is come,
Proud Jericho hath met her doom.

RECIT. — Joshua.

Let all the seed of Abrah'm now prepare
To celebrate this feast, with pious care.
Ages unborn, by this example led,
Shall bleed the lamb, and bake th' unleaven'd bread.

SOLO AND CHORUS.

Almighty ruler of the skies,
Accept our vows, and sacrifice,
Thy mercy did with Israel dwell,
When the first-born of Egypt fell.
But, oh ! what wonders did the Lord
At the Red Sea to us afford !
He made our passage on dry ground,
While Pharaoh and his host were drown'd.
He thro' the dreary Desert led,
He slaked our thirst, with manna fed :
His glory did on Sinai shine,
When we receiv'd the law divine.

RECIT. — Caleb.

Joshua, the men dispatch'd by thee to learn
The strength of Ai, and country to discern ;
Elate with pride, deluded by success,
Despised their pow'r, and made the people less.
Easy of faith, we trust what they relate,
And now the hasty error find too late ;
Our troops with shame repuls'd — Oh, fatal day !
Hark ! Israel mourns ; triumphs the King of Ai.

CHORUS of the defeated Israelites.

How soon our tow'ring hopes are cross'd !
The foe prevails, our glory's lost !
Again shall Israel bondage know,
Oh ! sheathe the sword, unbend the bow.

RECIT. — Joshua.

Whence this dejection ? Rouse your coward hearts,
Let courage edge your swords, and point your darts.
Remember Jericho ! and sure success
Shall crown your arms ; the Lord our cause shall bless.

AIR.

With redoubled rage return,
Ev'ry breast with fury burn :
And the heathen soon shall feel
The force of your avenging steel.

CHORUS

We with redoubled rage return,
All our breasts with fury burn :
The heathen nations soon shall feel
The force of our avenging steel.

RECIT. — Othniel.

Now give the army breath ; let war awhile
Smooth his rough front, and wear a cheerful smile.
The interval, if Achsah but approve,
I'll consecrate to virtue and to love.

AIR.

Heroes when with glory burning,
All their toil with pleasure bear ;
And believe, to love returning,
Laurel wreaths beneath their care :
War to hardy deeds invites,
Love the danger well requites.

RECIT. — *Joshua.*

Brethren and friends, what joy this scene imparts,
To meet such brave, such firm united hearts !
What tho' the tyrants, an unnumber'd host,
Their strength in horse, and iron chariots, boast !
Now shines the sun, that fixeth Canaan's doom ;
Trust in the Lord, and you shall overcome.

(FLOURISH OF WARLIKE INSTRUMENTS.)

RECIT. — *Caleb.*

Thus far our cause is favour'd by the Lord.
Advance, pursue ; Jehovah is the word !

(FLOURISH OF WARLIKE INSTRUMENTS.)

RECIT. — ACCOMP. — *Joshua.*

Oh ! thou bright orb, great ruler of the day !
Stop thy swift course, and over Gibeon stay.
And, Oh ! thou milder lamp of light, the moon,
Stand still, prolong thy beams in Ajalon.

CHORUS.

Behold ! the list'ning sun the voice obeys,
And in mid heav'n his rapid motion stays.
Before our arms the scatter'd nations fly,
Breathless they pant, they yield, they fall, they die.

Part III.

CHORUS.

Hail ! mighty Joshua, hail ! thy name
Shall rise into immortal fame.
Our children's children shall rehearse
Thy deeds in never-dying verse ;
And grateful marbles raise to thee,
Great guardian of our liberty !

RECIT. — *Joshua.*

Caleb, for holy Eleazer send,
And bid the chiefs of Israel all attend,
To execute th' Almighty's great command,
And lot among the tribes the conquer'd land.

Caleb.

My cup is full ; how blest is this decree !
How can my thanks suffice the Lord, and thee ?

AIR.

Shall I in Mamre's fertile plain,
The remnant of my days remain ?
And is it giv'n to me to have
A place with Abrah'm in the grave ?
For all these mercies I will sing
Eternal praise to heav'n's high king.

CHORUS of the Tribe of Judah.

For all these mercies we will sing
Eternal praise to heav'n's high king.

RECIT. — *Othniel.*

O Caleb, fear'd by foes, by friends ador'd,
Well have we paid this tribute to thy sword ;
But still, to make thine heritage complete,
Debir remains, Debir the giant's seat.

Caleb.

Worn out in war, I find my strength decline ;
Counsel alone, the gift of age, is mine.

Is there a warrior willing to pursue
The conquest, and that stubborn town subdue ?
For him, for his, I amply will provide,
And to crown all, Achsah shall be his bride.

Othniel.

Glorious reward ! the task be mine alone ;
Transporting thought ! Caleb, the town's thy own.

AIR.

Place danger around me,
The storm I'll despise ;
What arm shall confound me,
When Achsah's the prize ?

CHORUS.

Father of Mercy, hear the pray'r we make,
And save the hero for his country's sake ?

RECIT. — *Joshua.*

In bloom of youth, this stripling hath achiev'd
What scarce, in future times, shall be believ'd.
Mankind no sooner did pronounce his name,
But he stood foremost in the rolls of fame :
Tyrants he humbled, with the world's applause,
And sav'd his country's liberty and laws.

TRIO.

See, the conqu'ring hero comes !
Sound the trumpets, beat the drums -
Sports prepare, the laurel bring,
Songs of triumphs to him sing.

CHORUS of Virgins.

See the godlike youth advance !
Breathe the flutes, and lead the dance !
Myrtle wreaths, and roses twine,
To deck the hero's brow divine.

FULL CHORUS.

See the conqu'ring, &c.

RECIT. — *Caleb.*

Welcome ! my son, my Othniel, good and great !
The ornament and champion of the state.
Take thy reward, the noblest heav'n can raise,
And lasting love adorn your happy days.

Othniel.

What tongue can utter, or what heart conceive
The joy with which this blessing I receive ?

Achsah.

Blest be the pow'r, that kept thee safe from harms
Blest be the pow'r that gave thee to my arms.

AIR.

Oh ! had I Jubal's lyre,
Or Miriam's tuneful voice !
To sounds like his I would aspire,
In songs like her's rejoice :
My humble strains but faintly show,
How much to heav'n and thee I owe.

RECIT. — *Caleb*

While lawless tyrants, with ambition blind,
Mock solemn faith, waste worlds, and thin mankind;
Israel can boast a leader, just and brave,
A friend to freedom, and ordain'd to save.

Thus bless'd, to heav'n your voices raise
In songs of thanks, and hymns of praise.

CHORUS

The great Jehovah is our awful theme,
Sublime in Majesty, in pow'r supreme

Hallelujah !